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# PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

Munday, May 7. 1666.

## The Contents.

*A way of Preserving Birds taken out of the Egge, and other small Fetus's; communicated by Mr Boyle. An Extract of a Letter, lately sent to Sr. Robert Moray out of Virginia, concerning an unusuall way of Propagating Mulberry-trees there, for the better improvement of the Silk-Work; together with some other particulars, tending to the good of that Royall Plantation. A Method, by which a Glaſs of a ſmall Plano-Convex Sphere may be made to refract the Rayes of Light to a Focus of a far greater diſtance, than is uſuall. Observations about Shining Worms in Oysters. Observations of the Effects of Touch and Friction. Some particulars, communicated from forrain Parts, concerning the Permanent Spott in Jupiter; and a conteſt between two Artiſts about Optick-Glasses, &c. An Account of a Book written by Dr. Thomas Sydenham, entituled, Methodus Curandi Febrēs, propriis Observationibus ſuperstructa.*

*A way  
Of preserving Birds taken out of the Egge, and other small  
Fetus's; communicated by Mr. Boyle.*

 His was imparted in a Letter, as follows; The time of the year invites me to intimate to you, that among the other Uses of the Experiment, I long ſince preſented the Society, of preſerving Whelps taken out of the Dams womb, and other Fetus's, or parts of them, in Spirit of Wine; I re-  
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member, I did, when I was sollicitous to observe the Processe of Nature in the Formation of a Chick, open Hens Eggs, some at such a day, and some at other daies after the beginning of the Incubation, and carefully taking out the *Embryo's*, embalmed each of them in a distinct Glafs (which is to be carefully stopt) in *Spirit of Wine*: Which I did, that so I might have them in readinesse, to make on them, at any time, the Observations, I thought them capable of affording; and to let my Friends at other seasons of the year, see, *both* the differing appearances of the Chick at the third, fourth, seventh, fourteenth, or other daies, after the Eggs had been stale on, *and* (especially) some particulars not obvious in Chickens, that go about; as the hanging of the Gutts out of the *Abdomen*, &c. How long the tender *Embryo* of the Chick soon after the *Punctum saliens* is discoverable, *and* whilst the Body seems but a little Organized Gelly, *and* some while after *That*, will be this way preserv'd, without being too much shrivel'd up, I was hindred by some mischances to satisfie my self: but when the *Fetus's*, I took out, were so perfectly formed as they were wont to be about the seventh day, and after, they so well retain'd their shape and bulk, as to make me not repent of my curiosity: And some of those, which I did very early this Spring, I can yet shew you. I know I have mention'd to you an easie application of what I, some years since, made publick enough; but not finding it to have been yet made by any other, and being perswaded by Experience, that it may be extended to other *Fetus's*, which this season (the Spring) is time to make provision off, I think the *Advertisement* will not seem unseafonable to some of our Friends; though being now in haste, and having in my thoughts divers particulars, relating to this way of Preserving Birds taken out of the Egge, and other small *Fetus's*, I must content my self to have mention'd that, which is *Essential*, leaving divers other things, which a little practise may teach the Curious, unmention'd. Notwithstanding which, I must not omit these two Circumstances; the *one*, that when the Chick was grown big, before I took it out of the Egge, I have (but not constantly) mingled

mingled with the *Spirit of Wine*, a little Spirit of *Sal Armoniack*, made (as I have elsewhere delivered) by the help of *Quick-lime*: which Spirit I choose, because, though it abounds in a Salt not Sowre, but Urinous, yet I never observed it (how strong soever I made it) to coagulate Spirit of Wine. The other circumstaunce is, that I usually found it convenient, to let the little *Animals*, (I meant to imbalme, lie for a little while in ordinary Spirit of Wine, to wash off the looser filth, that is wont to adhere to the Chick, when taken out of the Egge; and then, having put either the same kind of Spirit, or better upon the same Bird, I suffer'd it to soak some hours (perhaps some daies, *pro re nata*) therein, that the Liquor, having drawn as it were what Tincture it could, the *Fætus* being remov'd into more pure and well dephlegm'd Spirit of Wine, might not dis colour it, but leave it almost as limpid, as before it was put in.

*In the usefulness of  
Experimental Philo-  
sophy.*

### *An Extract*

*Of a Letter, sent lately to Sir Robert Moray out of Virginia, concerning an unusual way of propagating Mulberry trees there, for the better improvement of the Silk-Work; together with some other particulars, tending to the good of that Plantation.*

I am disappointed at this time of some Rarities of Minerals, Mettals, and Stones; but you may have them any other time, as conveniently, &c. I have planted here already ten thousand *Mulberry trees*; and hope, within two or three years, to reap good silk of them. I have planted them in a way unusual here, which advances them two or three years growth, in respect of their being sown in seed: And they are now, at writing hereof all holding good, although this has been a very long and bitter winter with us, much longer and colder, than ever I did find it in *Scotland* or *England*. I intend likewise to plant